

Astrangia poculata

The world's coral reefs are deteriorating at frightening rates, in large part due to warming ocean temperatures driven by anthropogenic climate change. In the face of global coral reef decline, many scientists have begun to study variation in tolerance of corals to heat stress. Recent research has revealed that corals acclimated to higher ambient temperatures may demonstrate greater resiliency in the face of acute thermal stress. For example, Aichelman et al. (2019) found that samples of the temperate coral *Astrangia poculata* that were collected off the coast of Virginia were able to withstand higher temperatures than corals from off of Rhode Island, corresponding to the relatively warmer climate off of Virginia as compared to Rhode Island. Continued study of differences in coral thermal limits may provide valuable insights into how coral